



Security Council

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Letter dated 10 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of September 2001 under the presidency of France for inclusion in the annex to the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly.

This assessment has been prepared under my responsibility, following consultations with the members of the Council, in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451). It should not be considered as representing the views of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-David Levitte



Annex to the letter dated 10 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

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Assessment of the French presidency of the Security Council (September 2001)

Summary

In view of the anticipated expiration dates and the announced visitors, the French presidency had set five objectives:

- To extend the mandate of two peacekeeping operations (the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE));
- To lift two sanctions regimes (against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Sudan);
- To conduct a dialogue with the facilitation teams of two African peace processes (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi);
- To meet high officials with regard to three countries on the Security Council's agenda (Angola, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- To hold a high-level meeting on children in armed conflicts.

The first four objectives were fulfilled:

- The mandates of the two peacekeeping operations were extended by resolutions 1369 (2001) and 1370 (2001);
- The sanctions were lifted by resolutions 1367 (2001) and 1372 (2001);
- The Council met Sir Ketumile Masire, Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, and two members of the facilitation team for Burundi (Mr. Bomani and Mr. Haysom); this meeting made it possible to clarify the expectations of the facilitation team and the Council's response (which was formalized in a presidential statement);
- The Council held meetings with the Minister of the Interior of Angola; the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and head of the Kosovo Coordination Centre, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo; and the High Representative and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The fifth objective, together with the special session on children, had to be postponed in the wake of the tragic events of 11 September.

Other subjects, however, were dealt with during the month of September:

- Terrorism has obviously come to the forefront of the Council's agenda. The Council, in addition to a press statement on 11 September, adopted resolution 1368 (2001) as an immediate reaction to the terrorist attacks and resolution

1373 (2001) on 28 September 2001, whose purpose is much broader and deals with the financing of terrorism and cooperation between States to cut off support to terrorism. The Council thus gave an ambitious response to this challenge of unprecedented magnitude to the international community, thereby indicating the contribution the United Nations can make in this area;

- In this context also, Council members held two consultations on the situation in Afghanistan, particularly in view of the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation and very volatile military and political situation;
- The Council held a public meeting on the Central African Republic with the Representative of the Secretary-General to assess the peace-building efforts under way in that country and to mark the Council's ongoing interest in post-conflict situations. A presidential statement was adopted following this debate;
- The Council adopted resolution 1371 (2001), which gives political support to the efforts of various organizations and to the international security presence to be deployed in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Finally, the Council considered the question of the Iraqi oil pricing mechanism, benefiting from the expertise of the oil overseers. Although divergent views on this issue have not been reconciled, the facts have been clearly presented.

With regard to procedure, the Council held two private meetings, two private meetings with troop-contributing countries, two private meetings open to non-members of the Council who wished to attend, three public meetings with the active participation of non-members of the Council (besides nine formal meetings to adopt texts) and fifteen consultations. The private meetings with troop-contributing countries were the first implementation of resolution 1353 (2001); they were warmly welcomed by those countries and gave them an opportunity to make their views known and to have a useful dialogue with the Council.

Details

Africa

Ethiopia/Eritrea (UNMEE)

On Monday, 10 September, the Security Council held a private meeting with troop-contributing countries to UNMEE. It was the first implementation of resolution 1353 (2001), annex II.A, which provides that "the Security Council will hold public or private meetings with the participation of troop-contributing countries (...) and without prejudice to the provisional rules of procedure of the Council, in particular (...) when considering a change in, or renewal or completion of a peacekeeping mandate".

During the private meeting with troop-contributing countries and in informal consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General gave a briefing on the current situation. The situation remained stable in the Temporary Security Zone; the parties, though not having formally accepted it, were respecting the Zone and cooperating with UNMEE. Internally displaced persons numbering 170,000 had returned home and 70,000 of them remained in camps. Demobilization had started (70,000 in Ethiopia). Nevertheless, several issues were outstanding: the status-of-

forces agreement had not yet been signed by one party; the freedom of movement of UNMEE was being restricted in the adjacent area north of the Temporary Security Zone; the number of police officers and militias present in the Zone had not been communicated to UNMEE; the Mission still could not fly directly between Addis Ababa and Asmara; comprehensive data on minefields were not yet available. Although confidence-building measures had started to be implemented, mistrust remained between the two parties (exchange of prisoners of war had stopped; citizens of the other countries continued to be expelled).

Council members expressed concern about the lack of progress in several areas. They emphasized two points, namely, how best to ensure that the parties live up to their commitments and cooperate fully with UNMEE, and what the exit strategy of UNMEE will be. On the first point, it was agreed that beyond the demands reiterated in the resolution extending the Mission, the President of the Council would meet with the representatives of the two countries concerned. A possible Security Council mission in the region at the beginning of next year was also considered. On the second point, Council members were of the view that a rapid completion of the work of the Boundary Commission would allow UNMEE to withdraw. In that regard, appropriate funding should be provided to the Commission.

The President of the Council spoke with the representatives of Ethiopia and Eritrea to convey the concern and dissatisfaction of Council members about the lack of progress on a series of issues. The two representatives restated the position of their respective Governments.

On 14 September 2001, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1369 (2001), which extends the mandate of UNMEE for six months.

Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)

On Thursday, 13 September 2001, the Security Council held a private meeting with troop-contributing countries to UNAMSIL. It was the second implementation of resolution 1353 (2001).

During the private meeting with troop-contributing countries and in informal consultations, the Secretariat gave a briefing on the current situation. The decision of the Government of Sierra Leone to organize elections on 14 May 2002 had prompted the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to boycott an important meeting on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and to present several political demands, in particular the convening of a national consultative conference. The efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General had convinced RUF to return to dialogue with the Government. Efforts had been made by the Government to address some of the political concerns expressed by RUF and some opposition parties. Nevertheless, RUF and the Civil Defence Forces had continued to disarm (almost 17,000 combatants since May 2001). The deployment of UNAMSIL had continued to make progress.

In the discussions, the following points were raised:

- What is the attitude of RUF? Is it willing to complete the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, relinquish its control over parts of the territory of Sierra Leone and transform itself into a genuine political party?

- The completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme is the best guarantee not only for the creation of a secure environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections, but also to the exit strategy of UNAMSIL. The programme may be put in jeopardy, however, for lack of resources (the trust fund of the World Bank will be short of cash in November). Contributions from donors are urgently needed. The whole peace process should not be disrupted because of insufficient funding;
- The preparation and holding of elections is a challenge both to the Government, which will have to strengthen its control over the territory and its security forces (the army, trained by the United Kingdom, and the police, trained by UNAMSIL), and to UNAMSIL, which will have to provide a secure environment, logistical support for elections and a credible monitoring mechanism;
- Diamond mines still controlled by RUF should be handed over to the Government to provide resources for reconstruction and development. Concerns were raised about ongoing forced labour;
- The importance of the regional dimension has been emphasized. The role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should be maintained and reinforced. Signs of some improvement in relations between the three countries of the Mano River Union are encouraging;
- Post-conflict peace-building will soon be necessary and will require commitment by international donors.

On 18 September, the Security Council adopted resolution 1370 (2001), which extends the mandate of UNAMSIL for six months.

Burundi

On 20 September 2001, Council members held consultations in the morning with the Secretariat (Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations) and with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Dinka, and met in closed session with two members of the facilitation team (Messrs. Bomani and Haysom) in the afternoon.

Council members stressed that keeping to the 1 November deadline for the installation of a transition government could have a positive impact on a number of outstanding issues, especially the issue of the ceasefire. There were two main problems to be resolved before the transition period: the establishment of a legal framework (including the adoption of two laws on provisional amnesty and on crimes of genocide) and the establishment of a special protection unit.

Regarding the latter, the purpose of the unit would be to ensure the safety of politicians returning from exile to participate in the transition institutions. No military function was planned. Members of the Council agreed that that was the responsibility of the Burundians. However, external assistance would be needed, *inter alia* to train, equip and finance the unit. The United Nations could provide technical assistance and help identify the lead nation — or, if necessary, the private firm — which could coordinate such foreign aid. The members of the facilitation team underscored the need for the Council to give political support to the establishment of such a protection unit which would help mobilize foreign aid. A

meeting of stakeholders (Burundian parties, countries of the region, potential donors, United Nations, European Union, the Organization of African Unity) should be organized in the near future in order to identify those who could assist in setting up the unit.

The ceasefire was also considered a key issue. Several Council members expressed regret that there had been no significant progress in negotiations with the two armed groups. They expressed support for the efforts made by the facilitation team in that regard. They pointed out that the peace process must remain inclusive in nature. The members of the facilitation team expressed the view that the installation of the transition government might encourage the armed groups to join the peace process because they would not want to be left out.

The Secretariat presented two scenarios for possible military involvement of the United Nations in the medium term: in the event of a rapid and dramatic deterioration of the situation with risks of genocide, only a coalition of volunteers could deploy a multinational force strong enough to protect civilians in a non-permissive environment. The United Nations could help identify the lead nation and potential troop contributors. In the event of a ceasefire, the United Nations could deploy a peacekeeping mission whose mandate would be to monitor the ceasefire, carry out a programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants and, if necessary, restructure the armed forces.

The Council agreed on a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/26) which was issued on 26 September.

Angola

On 20 September, the Security Council met in closed session with the Minister of the Interior of Angola. The Minister denounced recent attacks by the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) on civilians, which had resulted in the deaths of more than 600 people. UNITA sought to obstruct the preparations for and the holding of elections the following year. The Minister expressed regret that, despite the sanctions, UNITA was still able to purchase arms. He welcomed the commitment of the countries of the Southern African Development Community to work together to implement the sanctions. He congratulated the Sanctions Committee and the oversight mechanism on their work and asked that the latter's mandate be extended for six months. He said that the Lusaka Protocol remained the only basis for a settlement of the conflict.

Members of the Council expressed their solidarity with the Government of Angola and condemned the UNITA attacks on civilians. Under the present circumstances sanctions remained a necessary tool to try to force UNITA to change its strategy. Members of the Council stressed that there was no military solution to the conflict. In that connection, they welcomed the news that the Government was planning to hold elections with the broadest possible popular participation, and the active involvement of civil society and churches in the peace process.

At the close of the meeting, the President read out a statement on the situation in Angola (S/PRST/2001/24).

Central African Republic

On 21 September 2001, the Security Council held an open meeting at which the Secretary-General's representative, Mr. Cissé, was present (see S/PV.4380). It agreed on a presidential statement, which was issued on 26 September 2001 (S/PRST/2001/25).

Sudan

On 28 September 2001, the Security Council adopted resolution 1372 (2001) whereby it lifted the sanctions imposed on the Sudan by resolutions 1054 (1996), 1070 (1996) and 1074 (1996).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 5 September 2001, the Security Council held a closed meeting with the Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, Sir Ketumile Masire; the meeting was open to non-members. The Facilitator and his colleagues reported to members of the Council on the preparatory meeting held in Gaborone and on the prospects for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. At the close of the meeting, the President read out a statement (S/PRST/2001/22).

Middle East

Iraq

Expulsion of staff of the Office of the Iraq Programme

During the consultations on 6 September 2001, the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme informed members of the Council that Iraq had declared five United Nations staff members *personae non gratae*. The Government had given no explanation for its action, merely saying that the action was legitimate and that it would hold the United Nations responsible if those individuals did not leave Iraq immediately. The Executive Director of the Iraq Programme explained that he had decided to withdraw them out of concern for their physical safety and without prejudice to the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations or to their activities in accordance with the mandate of the humanitarian programme in Iraq. The Executive Director said that he had told the Iraqi authorities that, if any staff member acted in a manner that conflicted with the programme mandate or the Memorandum of Understanding, they should inform the Secretary-General and provide details of those actions so that the United Nations could take appropriate action. The Iraqi authorities had not done so in that instance.

Members of the Council expressed their support for the action taken by the Executive Director and said that any charges against United Nations staff should be substantiated. They agreed that the President of the Council should meet with the Permanent Representative of Iraq to request further clarifications and to communicate the Council's views; he duly did so. They also agreed that the President might speak to the press on their behalf (see press statement).

During the discussions, other issues concerning Iraq were raised (strikes in the no-fly zone, oil pricing mechanism). A variety of opinions were expressed but no conclusion was reached.

Oil pricing mechanism

During the consultations on 13 September, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 661 (1990) reported to members of the Council on the issue of the official selling price for Iraqi oil for the month of September. No agreement had been reached, for some delegations had wanted to accept the official selling price proposed by the oil overseers for the United States market for the entire month of September while others had been prepared to accept it only for the first half of the month. As there had been no consensus in the Committee on the price for the United States market, the Chairman had decided to seek the Council's opinion on the matter. The discussion that followed made it clear that there were different views on the subject: some delegations felt that the consensus rule under which all sanctions committees worked had been violated; others stressed the need to shorten the pricing period so as to prevent a situation in which, with the market price well above the official selling price, excess profits were generated which might be returned to Iraq in the form of fees outside the escrow account and of the 986 programme.

During the consultations on 24 September, the oil overseers informed members of the Council of the current situation concerning the oil pricing mechanism. They noted that a premium of 5 cents per barrel was the most that contractors could reasonably obtain. They pointed out that since December 2000, the premium had rarely fallen below 30 cents per barrel and that Iraq had almost never asked for the official selling price to be adjusted when the market price was rising. Members of the Council wondered whether the excess premium could be channelled back to Iraq. In any event, it meant a loss of earnings for the oil-for-food programme. Several members of the Council were of the opinion that one way to try to reduce the excess premium would be to shorten the pricing period. Others felt that that might destabilize the entire system of Iraqi oil exports. Council members were unable to reach consensus on such a measure.

Council members also discussed the issue of the procedure followed by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 661 (1990), in particular, the role of consensus.

The President concluded that there was agreement on having a weekly report from the oil overseers on the state of the oil market and that all delegations should be flexible so as to resolve all contentious issues within the Committee, including the pricing mechanism.

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC)

During the consultations on 18 September, Mr. Hans Blix, Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, submitted his quarterly report (S/2001/833) of 30 August 2001. In view of the circumstances, he drew a parallel between the terrorist threat and the dangers stemming from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction which might be used by State or non-State agents. The international community should focus on combating chemical and biological proliferation; the experience acquired

by the Special Commission, UNMOVIC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could be useful in that regard. He commented on various aspects of his report, including on the lack of cooperation from Iraq, without which it was impossible to verify Iraq's unilateral declaration that it had fulfilled all its obligations. He outlined the work done by the College of Commissioners to define the key concepts of resolution 1284 (1999) concerning disarmament.

Members of the Council welcomed the preparatory work done by UNMOVIC. Some members echoed the opinion expressed by Mr. Blix concerning the need to strengthen efforts to prevent and counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the present context. Some members wondered whether Iraq had rebuilt some of its capacities to develop such weapons since December 1998. Mr. Blix said that, in the absence of on-site inspections, UNMOVIC was using three sources of information: satellites, open sources and information supplied by Member States.

Council members emphasized that Iraq must implement all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1284 (1999); that was the only way to move towards the suspension and subsequent lifting of sanctions. Some members noted that one of the reasons for the current deadlock was that the Security Council was insisting that UNMOVIC must verify that Iraq had complied with its obligations, whereas Iraq stated that it had already done so. Some members wondered how to re-engage Iraq and expressed regret that it had not been possible to pursue the dialogue which the Secretary-General had initiated in February. Finally, some members were in favour of an overall approach in order to break the current deadlock on Iraq.

Palestine

Members of the Council agreed on a reply to the letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/55 under the heading "Question of Palestine".

Asia

Afghanistan

At the consultations on 18 September 2001, the Secretariat briefed Council members on recent developments concerning Afghanistan. Details were given on the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Commander Ahmed Shah Massoud. Following the assassination, military operations were initiated by the two parties with no significant change in the front line. The humanitarian situation remains disastrous and will continue to deteriorate. Between 5.5 and 6 million Afghans are at risk and dependent on international assistance. The United Nations evacuated its remaining 75 staff members as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross. Contingency plans were made, in particular as regards assistance in the form of food and shelter. In the absence of international staff, the local staff may be overwhelmed. The Secretariat recalled that so far the Taliban have refused to implement the Security Council resolutions and that the outlook was uncertain, since the regime had recently hardened its stance.

Council members unanimously stated that the Taliban must implement the resolutions. That regime bore the brunt of responsibility for the disastrous

humanitarian situation, which was a source of great concern to the Council and to the entire international community. It was agreed that, given the circumstances, consideration of a global approach to the Afghan problem should be postponed. Council members also agreed to issue a short and strongly worded message to the Taliban: implement the resolutions of the Security Council, and in particular resolution 1333 (2000), immediately and unconditionally (see press statement).

At the consultations on 27 September 2001, the Secretariat briefed Council members on recent developments:

- Fighting has apparently occurred in various northern provinces. The Northern Alliance has launched offensives. There are signs of Taliban military reinforcement but non-Afghan fighters seem to have disappeared on the Takhan front;
- The humanitarian situation has further deteriorated. Five million people need international assistance. The local staff of humanitarian agencies are remaining in Afghanistan but their activity is severely hampered. Depots and equipment of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations have been seized by the Taliban. The number of people at risk could reach 7.5 million and the number of displaced persons 2.5 million. The actions of all the competent agencies are coordinated at the regional level. The frontiers of Afghanistan with Iran and Pakistan should be reopened so that Afghans fleeing their country can find temporary refuge. There is an urgent need for response to the Secretary-General's appeal for donations in the amount of US\$ 584 million;
- The Secretary-General's Special Envoy participated in a meeting of the Geneva initiative and met former King Zahir.

Council members expressed distress and concern about the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation and the behaviour of the Taliban towards international humanitarian workers. They echoed the Secretary-General's appeal for immediate international assistance for the refugees, the host countries and, to the extent possible, the needy in Afghanistan. The international community must be prepared to face a humanitarian disaster of grave proportions.

At the political level, it is urgently necessary to bring together the various Afghan factions and the 6+2 countries in order to find viable ways of achieving the long-awaited comprehensive political settlement.

At the end of the consultations, the President conveyed Council members' views to the press (see press statement).

East Timor

The Security Council held an open meeting on 10 September on the situation in East Timor following the elections of 30 August (see S/PV.4367). At the end of the meeting, the President read out a statement on the situation in East Timor (S/PRST/2001/23).

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Security Council held an open meeting on 21 September on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the High Representative, Mr. Petritsch, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Klein (see S/PV.4379).

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

1. On 10 September 2001, the Security Council adopted resolution 1367 (2001), lifting the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia imposed by resolution 1160 (1998).
2. On 17 September, the Security Council held a closed meeting open to non-members with the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, Mr. Covic, who is also the head of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haekkerup. Mr. Covic expressed concern about the continuing violence in Kosovo, the very small number of displaced persons returning to Kosovo and the certification of extremist parties. He appealed for cooperation between UNMIK and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, along the lines of the cooperation developed between KFOR and the Yugoslav authorities in the Ground Safety Zone.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

On 26 September 2001, the Security Council adopted resolution 1371 (2001) on The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Cyprus

At the consultations on 26 September, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus briefed Council members on the latest developments. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Special Adviser had extended an invitation to the two Cypriot sides to resume the search for a comprehensive settlement and to hold separate meetings in New York in September. The head of the Turkish Cypriot community had not accepted the invitation on the grounds that it was necessary to prepare a common basis for the negotiations as such and that the subject of the talks should be the creation of a new partnership based on equal status. The Special Adviser was of the opinion that the principles set out in resolution 1250 (1999) remained valid and that the door was still open. He hoped that the parties would remain involved.

Council members regretted the lack of progress and the attitude of the Turkish side. They expressed the hope that the situation would soon change. They agreed on a press statement, which was read out by the Council President on behalf of the Council members (see press statement).

Terrorism

Council members reacted immediately to the tragic events of 11 September by issuing a press statement (see press statement).

On the following day, they adopted resolution 1368 (2001).

On 28 September, they adopted resolution 1373 (2001).

Peacekeeping

On 25 September, Council members endorsed the report of the working group on peacekeeping concerning "No exit without strategy", which was issued as a note by the President of the Security Council (S/2001/905).

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

The annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly was adopted at an open meeting on 18 September 2001.

Council members agreed to ask the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Matters to consider the structure and content of the report and to submit proposals on how it could be made more useful and less costly.

Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Matters

Although it had been specified during the Council's 4375th meeting, on 18 September 2001, that a meeting of the Working Group would be held a few days later to consider ways of improving the annual report of the Security Council, the meeting could not be held because of scheduling problems.

Appendix

Press statements

Iraq

6 September

Members of the Security Council have heard a briefing by the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme on the decision of Iraq to declare *personae non gratae* five members of that Office.

Members of the Security Council support the decision taken by the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme to withdraw those colleagues for their own safety.

Members of the Security Council concur with the legal points forwarded by the Executive Director and urge Iraq to give further explanations regarding this decision. In this connection, I will be in touch with the Permanent Representative of Iraq soon.

Members of the Security Council take this opportunity to reaffirm their full support for the Office of the Iraq Programme and in particular for its personnel on the ground who carry out their task under difficult conditions.

Afghanistan

18 September

Members of the Security Council heard a full briefing by Under-Secretary-General Prendergast on the political, military and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, including the dire consequences of Taliban rule for the Afghan people.

There is one and only one message the Security Council has for the Taliban: implement United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1333 (2000), immediately and unconditionally.

27 September

Members of the Council held this morning a very important meeting with a briefing by the Secretary-General on different aspects of the crisis in and around Afghanistan. They were also briefed on the situation by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Danilo Turk, and by the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Carolyn McAskie.

Members of the Security Council expressed deep concern at the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan in the last 10 days. The tragedy of the Afghan people has deep roots, more than two decades of conflict and three years of drought, but the fast deteriorating situation today was basically the result of decisions taken by the Taliban.

Members of the Council stated that the international community stood ready and determined to respond urgently and generously to the repeated calls by the Secretary-General and United Nations agencies for assistance for the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. They stressed the need for humanitarian assistance efforts to be closely coordinated.

Members of the Council called on the Taliban to remove all restrictions on the supply of desperately needed humanitarian aid, including those on food supplies and humanitarian relief workers. These restrictions have one result: the humanitarian assistance cannot be provided inside the country. The Taliban will be held responsible for the consequences of their own decisions.

Members of the Council recognized the particular pressures of potential refugee flows on Afghanistan's neighbours, in particular Pakistan and Iran. Specific assistance to those countries was needed.

Members of the Council also discussed the political situation. They reaffirmed relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000). In this regard, they welcomed the recent commitment by States, such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and especially Pakistan.

In light of this critical situation, members of the Council expressed their intention to review regularly the situation in Afghanistan.

Terrorism

11 September

Members of the Security Council are shocked by and unanimously condemn in the strongest terms the horrifying terrorist attacks which have taken place today in New York, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere in the United States. There can be no excuse or justification for these acts.

Members of the Security Council express their deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the people and Government of the United States of America.

Members of the Security Council call on all States to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of today's outrages. They call on the international community to redouble its efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts by increased cooperation and full implementation of relevant international anti-terrorist conventions.

Members of the Security Council express their readiness to take urgent further steps in accordance with their responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

Cyprus

26 September

Council members heard a briefing from Mr. Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, on 26 September. They commended the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser for their efforts and the initiatives they have taken since November 1999 to move the process forward, including an invitation to the leaders to resume the search for a comprehensive settlement in New York this month.

Council members expressed disappointment at the unjustified decision by the Turkish side to decline that invitation. Progress can only be made at the negotiating table.

Council members encourage the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser to continue their efforts using the guidelines in resolution 1250 (1999), namely that there should be no preconditions; that all issues are on the table; that both sides should make a commitment in good faith to negotiate until a settlement is reached; and that there should be a full consideration of relevant United Nations resolutions and treaties.

Council members gave full support to the Secretary-General's efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. They urge all concerned to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser and to show confidence in their judgement as to the best way to move forward.